

AMENDMENTS**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-8 and 13-23.

Please add new claims 28-31, as shown in the attached sheets (page 4).

REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action mailed August 13, 2002 (Paper No. 19), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of the present application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Claims 28-31 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-8 and 13-23 have been cancelled. These claim cancellations do not disclaim any subject matter to which the Applicants are entitled.

New claims 28-31 have been added. Claims 28-31 are directed to peptides which correspond to partial sequences of non-structural proteins, and methods of using these peptides for detection of FMDV-infected animals and for differentiation vaccinated versus infected animals. Support for claims 28-31 may be found, for example, on page 3, line 21 to page 4, line 19, and pages 7-13 of the specification.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 13-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention (Paper No. 19, page 2-3). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1-8 and 13-23 have been cancelled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 13-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the applications was filed, had possession of the claimed invention (Paper No. 19, page 3-4). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1-8 and 13-23 have been cancelled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejection.

CONCLUSION

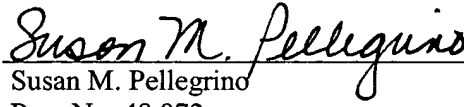
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request reexamination of the present application, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections, and entry of the amendments. Should there be any further matter requiring consideration, Examiner Winkler is invited to contact the undersigned counsel.

If there are any further fees due in connection with the filing of the present reply, please charge the fees to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 13-3372. If a fee is required for an extension of time not accounted for, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to undersigned's deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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